

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01705 031348Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7703

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR, CY

SUBJ: ATHENS PRESS CONCERNING SECRETARY'S ALLEGED REMARKS ON
GREECE

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0862, (B) ATHENS 1608, (C) STATE 44044

1. AKROPOLIS MARCH 2 CARRIED ON FRONTPAGE REPORT FROM
ITS NICOSIA CORRESPONDENT A. LYKAVGHIS ALLEGING THAT
SECRETARY DURING HIS PREVIOUS MIDDLE EAST
TRIP SAID OFF-THE-RECORD THAT CARAMANLIS COULD BE
OVERTHROWN IF HIS GOVERNMENT PERSISTS IN ITS INTRANSIGENT
POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. SAME NEWS STORY WHICH CITES
FILELEFTHEROS FROM NICOSIA ADDED THAT SECRETARY REFERRED
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01705 031348Z

TO LENGTHY CABLES FROM AMBASSADOR KUBISCH WHICH INDICATE

THAT CARAMANLIS WAS NOT AGAINST THE RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY.

2. TEXT OF ARTICLES: QUOTE. NICOSIA, MARCH 2. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT MR. A. LYKAVGHIS). AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THREATENED IN FRONT OF JOURNALISTS THAT: 'IT IS POSSIBLE FOR CARAMANLIS TO BE OVERTHROWN IF HIS GOVERNMENT PERSISTS ON ITS INTRANSIGENT POSITIONS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION.' THIS IS DISCLOSED BY THE BIGGEST PAPER OF CYPRUS, FILELEFTHEROS, WHICH IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS, IN TODAY'S ISSUE IN A DISPATCH FROM NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, THE THREAT WAS LAUNCHED BY KISSINGER WHILE HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY AND WHILE HE WAS TALKING OFF THE RECORD TO THE JOURNALISTS WHO WERE ACCOMPANYING HIM ABOARD HIS PRIVATE PLANE.

THIS HAS BEEN DISCLOSED TODAY, RIGHT AFTER THE ABORTIVE COUP IN GREECE, ALTHOUGH THE CONSPIRACY DOES NOT SEEM TO BE RELATED TO KISSINGER'S THREAT. AND THE DISPATCH ADDS: 'ACCORDING TO A RESPONSIBLE ANALYSIS OF OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON, THE THREATS, LIES, VAGUE PROMISES AND PRESSURES CONSTITUTED A PART OF TACTICS SO THAT KISSINGER'S POLICY MEETS WITH SUCCESS.' ACCORDING TO FILELEFTHEROS THE ABOVE WAS CONVEYED TO MR. CARAMANLIS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PAPER DISCLOSES ANOTHER UNACCEPTABLE ACTION OF KISSINGER AT THE EXPENSE OF MR. CARAMANLIS. SPECIFICALLY, MR. KISSINGER REFERRED TO EXTENSIVE CABLES OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR KUBISCH IN ATHENS, WHICH HE CLAIMED TO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN SHOW THAT "CARAMANLIS WAS NOT AGAINST THE RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY.'

CERTAIN OF THESE CONGRESSMEN SAID LATER THAT DESPITE THE FRENZIED AND UNUSUAL EFFORTS OF KISSINGER ON THIS MATTER, THE ADVERSE REACTION TO THE DRAFT BILL ON RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY IS INCREASING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER
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PAGE 03 ATHENS 01705 031348Z

BITSIOS HAS URGED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT APPROPRIATE DENIALS BE ISSUED ON AKROPOLIS ARTICLE. SHOULDWE BE QUERIED ON ALLEGED CABLES FROM EMB. ATHENS WE PROPOSE TO SAY FOLLOWING UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE:
QTE THE EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF MESSAGES SENT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, WE CAN SAY THAT THE VIEWS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER OF AID TOTURKEY HAVE BEEN MADE FULLY KNOWN

TO THE EMBASSY AND HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON.
THE EMBASSY CAN ALSO AFFIRM THAT THE VIEWS OF THE GOG ON
THIS MATTER HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CHARACTERIZED IN THE
WAY ALLEGED IN THE NEWS REPORT. END QTE.

4. WE WILL MAKE NO RPT NO COMMENT ON STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED
TO SECY. BUT WILL REMIND QUESTIONERS THAT USG HAS REPEATEDLY
WELCOMED THE RETURN OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TO GREECE AND
SUPPORTS FULLY THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS.

5. AS RECOMMENDED REF B AND ACKNOWLEDGED IN REF C WE
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPT. SPOKESMAN TO ADDRESS
QUESTION IN SIMILAR TERMS AT NOON BRIEFING.
KUBISCH

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